

Sermon Notes for December 20, 2020

DEFEATING YOUR DOUBTS – JOHN 14:1-7; 20:24-25

SERIES: RESILIENCE IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." **John 20:24-25 (ESV)**

- **DOUBT:** *disbelieving, without faith; uncertainty; to be uncertain about; consider questionable or unlikely; hesitate to believe.*

1. WHY, LORD, WHY?

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:11 (ESV)

² When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" **Matthew 11:2-3 (NIV)**

- *Doubt asks questions; unbelief refuses to hear answers.*

2. DEALING WITH DOUBTS

⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" **John 14:4-5 (NIV)**

A. Doubt Develops In Isolation

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. **John 20:24 (ESV)**

B. Doubt Demands Evidence

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." **John 20:25 (ESV)**

C. Doubt Draws Us Back to Christ

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

John 20:26 (ESV)

D. Doubt Deepens Our Faith

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." **John 20:27 (ESV)**

³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **Luke 24:38-40 (ESV)**

E. Doubt Defines Our Faith

²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" **John 20:28 (ESV)**

3. DEFEATING YOUR DOUBTS

A. Admit Your Doubts Personally

B. Articulate Your Doubts Clearly

C. Acknowledge Your Doubts Prayerfully

¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." ¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." **Judges 6:12-13 (ESV)**

D. Analyze the Evidence Diligently

E. Accept the Limitations Humbly

1) Accept Your Own Limitations

2) Accept the Bible's Limitations (Some issues the Bible is silent about)

3) Adjust to the Complexity of the Universe

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. **Romans 11:33-36 (NIV)**

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)**